

JONES, IRA PHILANDER
(1829-1897)
PAPERS
1845-1954

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INTRODUCTION

The Ira Philander Jones Papers, comprising one cubic foot of records, span the years 1845 through 1954. The collection consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings and other materials, primarily of Ira Philander Jones (1829-1897), lawyer, newspaper editor, organizer of the Tennessee Press Association and member of the Tennessee General Assembly. The collection was donated to the Tennessee State Library and Archives in 1973 and were the gift of Miss Elizabeth Jones of Nashville. There are no restrictions for scholarly research, and individual items may be photocopied.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ira Philander Jones (1829-1897)

- 1829** February 2, born near Abbeville, South Carolina, the son of William S. and Lucy Overton Pettus Jones.
- 1835** the family moved to Mississippi, where he spent his youth.
- 1849** was graduated from the University of Nashville and then entered the law school of Cumberland University at Lebanon.
- 1851** began law practice in San Antonio, Texas.
- 1851** December 16, married Martha E. Paul (1830-1888), the daughter of Isaac and Susan Massey Nance Paul.
- 1853** returned to Nashville and began the practice of law in partnership with Abram M. Tillman.
- 1859** became editor of the Nashville *Daily Patriot*, and continued as editor until February, 1862.
- 1860-1861** member of the Tennessee General Assembly and served on the staff of Governor Isham G. Harris as Quartermaster General.
- 1865-1883** revived the Nashville *Union and American*, and continued as editor after the paper became the Nashville *American*.
- 1883** became editor of the Nashville *Banner* and published a history of Tennessee.
- 1888** organized the Tennessee Press Association and served as first president.
- 1897** June 3, died in Covington, Tennessee and is interred in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Ira Philander Jones Papers, containing approximately one cubic foot of material, cover the period 1845 through 1954. They are composed of clippings, correspondence, financial documents, genealogical materials, land records, obituaries, photographs, printed material, programs and several miscellaneous items.

The collection is largely made up of correspondence, which centers on the business affairs of Ira P. Jones, and contains letters from real estate agents (mining concerns) and those involved in the newspaper business. The most interesting are those letters detailing social and cultural life in Middle Tennessee, especially the letters of a Northern girl expressing her views of the institution of slavery in the 1850s. Also of interest are the letters to the editor which comment on important political issues of the day.

Also included is correspondence between the members of the Jones' family. There are several letters between Jones and his spouse, Martha, and letters from Jones' son, Paul, to his mother. Paul Jones' correspondence, written in the 1880s, provides an interesting picture of the Gilded Age, in Washington D.C.

The correspondences of Ira P. Jones to his friends and business acquaintances contain observations on politics, religion, the newspaper profession, economic conditions and other happenings during the period 1855 through 1883. The family correspondence contains information about the family, as well as comments on the political scene and land transactions.

Also included in the collection are small miscellaneous items. Printed materials make up the second largest part of the collection. Included in the printed materials are programs of the Tennessee Press Association, as well as the program/libretto of the famous Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, *Patience*. There are photographs of the Jones family, as well as photographs of local summer resorts including the springs at Ridgetop and Hygeia Springs. Other miscellaneous items include invitations, speeches, clippings concerning Nashville's water pollution and a small amount of land records.

Although a small collection, the papers provide an important look into the life of a prominent man of affairs, as well as commentary on the social, cultural and political scene in the Nineteenth Century.

CONTAINER LIST

Box Number 1

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1.	Cards: "Memorial Service of James Abram Garfield,"	1882
2.	Cards: Miscellaneous announcements, obituaries, etc.,	1870-80s
3.	Clippings: re: Nashville water supply and pollution,	1880s
4.	Clipping: <i>The Tennessee Press</i> , re: 1888 TPA Meet, Shown in Rare Photograph,	1950
5.	Correspondence: Anthony–Hornsley,	1880-87
6.	Correspondence: Jones, Ira P.,	1859-81
7.	Correspondence: Jones, Ira P.–Jones, William,	1865-85
8.	Correspondence: Melchers–Patrick,	1884-88
9.	Correspondence: Paul–Worthington,	1855-88
10.	Correspondence: Untitled,	1850-87

Box Number 2

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1.	Correspondence: Unknown,	1865-88
2.	Financial Documents: Statement of the Indus Mining Company of the Territory of New Mexico,	1881
3.	Genealogy: Jones Family,	n. d.
4.	Land Records: Plat maps. Lauderdale Co., Tenn.; Lawrence Co., Mississippi,	1880s?
5.	Notebook, re: land records,	1880s?
6.	Obituaries: Jones, Ira P., <i>Nashville American</i> ,	1897
7.	Photograph: Unidentified Civil War era ironclad,	n. d.
8.	Photographs: Ridgetop (Tenn.), Hygeia Springs (Tenn.), Robertson County. Fogg High School, Graduating Class of 1888; Jones family,	1888-92
9.	Printed Materials–Booklet: <i>An Address Before the Alumni Society of the University of Nashville by William Shelton, D.D.</i> ,	1874
10.	Printed Materials–Booklet: <i>An Address by Hon. Edwin H. Ewing, at the Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the University of Nashville</i> ,	1885
11.	Printed Materials–Booklet: <i>An Argument for Enlarging the Endowment of the University of Nashville, An Address before the Alumni Society of the University, William B. Shelton, D.D.</i> ,	1874
12.	Printed Materials–Booklet: <i>Nashville: Charter for its Government, together with Reports of Departments</i> ,	1886
13.	Printed Materials–Booklet: <i>Refugio Gold and Silver Mining Company. Report of President</i> ,	

Statement of the Business of the Company, and Proceeding of the Annual Stockholders Meeting, 1887

CONTAINER LIST, CONTINUED:

Box Number 2, continued:

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
14.	Printed Materials–Booklet: <i>Journal of Proceedings of the Tennessee Press Association, at its Tenth Annual Session</i> , 1880	
15.	Printed Materials–Booklet: <i>Minutes of the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of the Editorial Association of the State of New Jersey</i> , 1888	
16.	Programs: Chas. E. Ford’s Comic Opera Company, “ <i>The Merry War</i> ,” 1883	
17.	Programs: Chas. E. Ford’s Comic Opera Company, “ <i>The Merry War</i> ,” 1883	
18.	Programs: Gilbert and Sullivan’s “ <i>Patience</i> ,” 1881	
19.	Sketches: <i>Hazel Kirke</i> , Madison Square Theatre, New York, 1881	
20.	Sketches: <i>Hazel Kirke</i> , Madison Square Theatre, New York, 1881	
21.	Speeches: National Typographical Union, n. d.	
22.	Writings: “ <i>Facts Concerning Lithographic Stone and that of this Company</i> ,” 1880s	
23.	Writings: Untitled play, n. d.	